(b) if so, Government's reaction is this regard;

(c) whether any joint venture proposed to flush out terrorist camps from Bhutan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) "The Government is aware of the news item referred to in the question".

(b) to (d) "The Government of Bhutan have informed the Government of India thai they have held a dialogue with the ULFA militants, to persuade them to leave Bhutan. The presence of ULFA Militants in Bhutan has been a subject of discussion with Bhutan. Both sides share concern on this issue. The matter was discussed with the King of Bhutan during his visit to India in October 1998, the visit of External Affairs Minister to Bhutan in April 1999 and the recent visit of the Foreign Minister of Bhutan to India. The kind has reiterated that Bhutan would not allow its territory to be misused against the interests of India. India and Bhutan remain in constant touch to find a solution to this issue and are co-operating with each other in this regard".

4917. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had to spend a huge amount of the tour of US President; and

(b) if so, the details of the expenses incurred by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Expenditure incurred was generally in line with that incurred for such important high-level visits.

(b) All birds are yet to be received from agencies concerned.